

REMARKS

Claims 1-48, 50-91 and 93-95 are presented for consideration by the Examiner. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 1-86, 93 and 94 are allowed, and that claim 92 would be allowable if written in independent form. Claims 87 and 95 have been amended, and claim 92 has been canceled in response to the rejections and remarks in the Office Action mailed August 5, 2005, and every ground of rejection has been addressed.

I. EXAMINER INTERVIEW WAS HELD

A telephone interview was held between Clifford B. Vaterlaus and the Examiner on October 24, 2005. A report of the substance of the interview is contained in the remarks below.

The amendments above were made in accordance with the discussion in the Examiner Interview, and the suggestions made in the Office Action. The amendments are made without prejudice to any future submission of the original claims in a subsequent application.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112 ARE TREATED

Regarding the rejection of claims 87-92 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Applicant has amended claim 87 to include the subject matter of claim 92 such that claim 87 requires

reacting iron with steam. This subject matter is enabled in the present application, *inter alia*, in the specification on page 44 line 1 to page 45, line 6, as well as the equations R7 to R9 on lines 10-12 of page 43. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

The Examiner indicated in the Examiner interview that claim 87 as amended herein would probably comply with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, though the opportunity to consider the matter in greater detail was reserved. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's offer to contact Applicant's counsel if any impediment remains to the allowance of claim 87 after considering the present amendment.

Regarding the rejection of claim 95 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended claim 95 in accordance with the recommendations from the Examiner in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 95 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION AND AUTHORIZATION OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

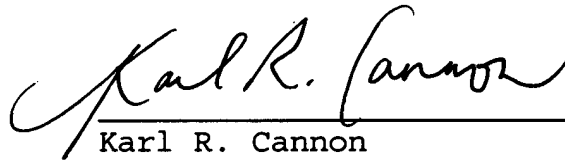
In view of the foregoing, applicant believes that claims 1-48, 50-91 and 93-95 are all allowable and the same is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, and such

impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0836.

DATED this 25 day of October, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karl R. Cannon", written over a horizontal line.

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